



16th Special Operations Wing

Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Aug. 24, 2001

## Base teen named youth of the year

by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson  
Public Affairs

President of the Hurlburt Field Youth Center Keystone Club, a volunteer lifeguard at the base pool and an airman with the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Fort Walton Beach High School are just some of the activities that 15-year-old Christina Baumayr is involved in.



**Christina Baumayr**

The daughter of Master Sgt. Kenneth and Debbie Baumayr, 16th Special Operations Wing, manpower and organization, was named Hurlburt Field's youth of the year as well as the small command youth of the year runner-up.

She was excited to find out that she won, Sergeant Baumayr said, but even more excited when she found out a trip to Washington D.C. came along with the award.

The 5th annual Air Force Youth of the Year Awards Ceremony and Air Force Teen Forum was July 25 through 28 at the Pentagon.

Along with other teen winners and runner-ups she was able to discuss issues that effect teens lives as military family members, said Master Sgt.

See **TEEN**, Page 5



File photo

A 15th Special Operations Squadron MC-130H Combat Talon II banks over the Northwest Florida coast. Airmen from the 15th SOS returned Sunday from a training mission in Europe.

## Europe experiences power of SOW

by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss  
Public Affairs

U.S. forces "across the pond" trained with the 16th Special Operations Wing for the first time in two years, Aug. 2 through Sunday.

More than 105 people from about five wing units participated in the two-week training with airmen at the 321st Special Tactics Squadron in Mildenhall, England and soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the 10th Special Forces Group in Stuttgart, Germany.

After a joint chiefs of staff mandated exercise to Europe was cancelled during the planning phase nine months ago, Tech. Sgt. Greg Smith, 16th SOW operations planner for the European command, had an idea to pick

up the pieces and salvage the much needed training, said Maj. Paul Barker, 16th SOW chief of theater plans.

"Because [Sergeant Smith] never lets anything die, this training was actually bigger and better than it was originally going to be," said Major Barker.

The wing provided its own airlift, completing the deployment with little support from other Air Force assets, said Sergeant Smith.

"This deployment was a proof of concept that [Air Force Special Operations Command] could deploy multiple aircraft and people from more than eight units from the 16th and 919th Special Operations wings with minimal external support, reaffirming the concept of 'anytime, anyplace.'"

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#### Softball

Two base NCOs contribute to All-Armed Forces championship  
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# VIEWPOINTS

## Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



## Shooting for breakfast

Under the watchful eyes of the 16th Security Forces Squadron, Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, and most group and squadron commanders took aim at targets on the firing range during a monthly commanders breakfast Aug. 14.

## Derogatory stickers

**Comment:** I was getting gas at the Hurlburt Field Shoppette, and I noticed the vehicle next to me had a derogatory bumper sticker on it.

I feel the military needs to present the best image possible both on and off base. I think placing such stickers on cars promotes a poor image of the Air Force.

I was wondering if something could be done about it?

**Reply:** I agree. I'm also concerned and have directed my staff to research an appropriate course of action. Thank you for the call.

## Home care provider

**Comment:** I've gone through the necessary requirements to be a home care provider on base, however, I'm still having problems receiving my license pending an immunization for my son.

Someone from public health who does the inspection told me my son didn't need a hepatitis B shot for me to become a provider. The school nurse also told me this wasn't necessary until 7th grade.

Then the day before my final paperwork to be licensed, public health informed me he would have to have the shot, which put me in a bind. I'd like to see the policy on this requirement.

**Reply:** We apologize for the inconvenience you experienced during your family child care licensing process. The base and the state of Florida require all children participating in family childcare programs to have current immunizations as listed on the childhood immunization schedules from the following sources: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Children of care providers are considered to be part of this program and therefore are required to be vaccinated against hepatitis B and other possible diseases.

# It's a dining facility not a chow hall

by Lt. Col. Jerry Poe

Former 834th Services Squadron Commander

**(Editor's note:** Colonel Poe commanded the 834th Services Squadron, now the 16th Services Squadron here. The article was originally published in 1989, but the sentiment remains today, according to Maj. Ed Shock, 16th SVS commander.)

There are many words and phrases we use daily in our military jargon, all embedded with colorful origins.

Yet, why is it that Services Squadron members are quick to correct people who say "chow hall" by informing them proudly that it's a "dining facility?" Chow hall, dining facility, what's the difference?

In the interest of fun, let's eat in the chow hall for one day. It's 5:45 a.m. and raining outside. You can't come inside the chow hall to dry off because the entrance door is locked between serving hours.

For breakfast, your eggs are going to be fried, unless it's the day of the week scrambled eggs are prepared. There aren't any made-to-order omelets available. Bacon, sausage or creamed beef is available, but never more than one is prepared on any given day.

Lunch consists of one entrée, one starch, one vegetable

and soup. Don't look for the snackline with hamburgers and other sandwiches made to order; they're not available in the chow hall.

Dinner is basically the same. If you come in for midnight chow, make sure you're on duty, in proper uniform and, in most cases, have a meal pass for access to the chow hall since in most cases this is strictly enforced.

Carry-out service isn't available in the chow hall. The atmosphere inside the chow hall is spartan.

Decorative carpeting, paintings, chandeliers and plants aren't included. Civilian contractors won't be around, so you'll have to bus your own table, which includes sliding your folding metal chair up to the table before you leave.

Busing tables isn't too hard because your tray is sectioned to eliminate the bothersome use of plates.

Once you've done all that you can go, unless you've been tagged for K.P. duty, during which you'll have lots of pots and pans to wash by hand.

Don't forget, you get to tidy up around the kitchen and clean the grease traps.

Oh yes, K.P. also stands for keep peeling; there are hundreds of potatoes to be peeled.

The members of the services squadron are proud to have a dining facility instead of a chow hall. Remember, the key word in food service is "service."



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## For the record:

In the Meet the New Commander column Aug. 17, the 16th Helicopter Generation Squadron Commander, Maj. James McKenzie's previous assignment should have been Osan Air Base, Korea.

In the Aug. 10 Open Line, Dorm recycling, Bob Johnson should have been listed as the person to call with questions about recycling.



# NEWS

## Exercise proves lines blurred between active, reserve Special Operations units

by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss  
Public Affairs

Among the redwoods and the rolling hills near Vancouver, British Columbia, exercise Forest Pyramid 01, which began Thursday, will provide two weeks of search-and-rescue training and combat survival instruction to the 5th Special Operations Squadron, 16th Maintenance Squadron and augmentees from the 9th SOS.

The exercise takes members of active and reserve units and proves they're a team, said Lt. Col. Joe Arthur, 5th SOS director of operations.

"When you look around this room," he said of the predeployment briefing room filled with active-duty and reserve airmen, "you can't tell who's a reservist and who's active. This is a seamless integration of forces, and it really showcases the total force concept."

Forest Pyramid 01 is the resurrection of an annual training mission previously flown by the 919th Special Operations Wing, exercising a decades long relationship with the 19th Wing, Comox, Canada.

The north-of-the-border exercises were suspended when the wing sent the aging AC-130A Gunship to the boneyard and adopted the MC-130P Combat Shadow, said Maj. Marvin Olk, 5th SOS mission planner.

Now that the mission has been revived, the location and the customer remain the same but it'll have a different feel due to the mission change from the Gunship to the Combat Shadow.

"Where we used to look for targets to shoot," quipped Colonel Arthur, "we now help locate survivors and coordinate the rescue and recovery efforts. It should be a very challenging and rewarding deployment."

The mission is to deploy two Combat Shadows into a contingency situation and stand up a search and rescue capability. The first rescue mission begins Monday in a combined operation with two reserve units, the 92nd Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wa., and the 939th Rescue Wing in Portland, Ore.

In addition to the mission events, various specialists will work on skills training essential to their role in the "one team, one fight" Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Adele Ruiz, an Air Reserve Technician with the 5th SOS, will be exercising command and control, reporting to



Photo by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss

Lt. Col. J.D. Smith, 5th Special Operations Squadron commander and local attorney, listens to one of the predeployment briefings with other reserve and active-duty airmen.

five command posts for the 44-person deployment.

"This is exactly what I'd be doing if I deployed to augment the 16th SOW on an actual contingency," she said.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Silvia, a life-support technician and a traditional reservist, is looking forward to the deployment, where he'll play a survivor being rescued.

"I get to see what we teach to our aircrew during life-support training in action as I get picked up as a survivor," he said.

The mission calls for the Combat Shadow to infiltrate "hostile airspace" to deliver the Pararescue jumpers to a crash site, where they'll locate the survivors, treat the injuries and move them to a pick-up point. The survivors and the Pararescuemen will rendezvous with an HH-60 Pavehawk for a pick-up, and after the pick-up, the Combat Shadow will refuel the helicopter as the task force leaves the hostile area.

"Due to the number of events, this is one of the more complicated profiles we perform," said Capt. Jeff Berry, a 5th SOS pilot in upgrade training for aircraft commander, who'll be the mission commander on this sortie. "Keeping situational awareness of all the players will probably be the biggest challenge."

After the search and rescue exercise,

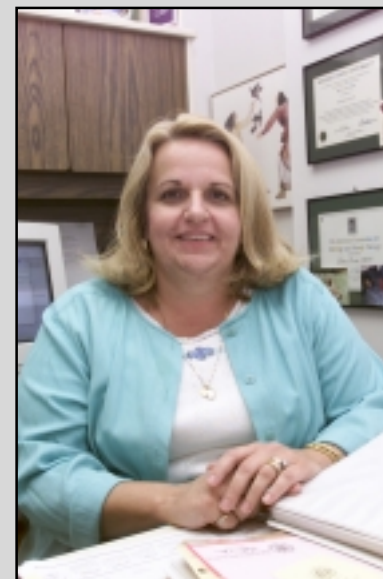
they'll also conduct a mission orientation and an exchange flight with the 442nd Squadron, a Canadian Air Force search and rescue unit specializing in high altitude search and rescue operations.

"We fly night vision goggle, low-level here on almost every training sortie. Now we have an opportunity to really work in some rough terrain," said Maj. Mike Wercinski, an aircraft commander for the deployment and traditional reservist who also flies for a civilian airline. "This will also sharpen some search and rescue skills that've gotten a little rusty and give us the opportunity to practice some events that our younger guys have only seen once or twice during their initial mission qualification."

During this deployment, the unit expects to fly 16 sorties and almost 65 hours — much of it at night using modified contour navigation techniques and night vision goggles.

Keeping the aircraft flying falls on the shoulders of active duty Master Sgt. Bruce Thompson from the 16th MXS. He'll lead a sixteen-person mixed active-duty and reservist team that has been preparing these aircraft for the last week. "This is our job — deploy the airplanes and keep them flying," he said. "I'm excited about working with this team — their experience level is fantastic."

## Spotlight on ...



**Retta Smith**

**Name:** Retta Smith

**Rank/Duty Title:** GS-11/Education services specialist

**Organization:** 16th Mission Support Squadron

**Hometown:** Madison, W. Va.

**Hobbies:** Church, reading, crafts, outdoor activities and watching old movies

**Contribution to the mission:** Ms. Smith's hard work and dedication to the education services mission is the best in the Air Force. She personally has submitted 18 commissioning applications since Oct. 1, 2000, with 17 selected.

This results in a personal selection rate of 94.4 percent and contributes to the overall 97 percent selection rate of Hurlburt Field — the best in the Air Force.

**(Editor's note:** The *COMMANDO* highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers on base who do a great job. All supervisors are encouraged to use this recognition program. Call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information.)



# AIR FORCE NEWS

## Error, glitch cause UAV accident



**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.** — Officials investigating the March 30 crash of an RQ-11L Predator unmanned aerial vehicle have determined the accident resulted from operator error.

The Accident Investigation Board report released Aug. 16 by Air Combat Command said the Predator experienced an icing problem and the pilot was unable to maintain control of the aircraft.

The Predator, which belonged to the 11th Reconnaissance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., was supporting the Kosovo Stabilization Force.

There were no injuries or fatalities, but the Predator was destroyed upon impact.

The pilot recognized the icing problem, the report said, but failed to immediately execute critical checklist steps for pitot static system failure.

The pitot static system uses air and static pressure to determine the aircraft's altitude and airspeed.

There's also substantial evidence that nonuse of the pitot static heating system was a substantially contributing factor in this mishap. (AFPN)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daryl McKamey

## Air Force helps fight Western fires

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — An Air Force Reserve unit here and Air National Guard units in California and Wyoming have sent specially equipped aircraft and support people to help fight wildfires in the Western United States. Specially configured C-130 Hercules from the 302nd Airlift Wing will stage out of Boise, Idaho, and C-130s from the 153rd AW in Wyoming and the 146th AW in California were activated Aug. 13, and are currently staging out of Klamath Falls, Ore. The C-130s, equipped with the U.S. Forest Service's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, can release 3,000 gallons of water or 27,500 pounds of fire retardant per drop. (AFPN)

## Captains may make major sooner

**WASHINGTON** — Captains wanting a promotion to major may not have to wait as long anymore.

A proposal recently submitted to Congress would modify the grade-ceiling table in Title 10 U.S.C. 523, calling for a 7-percent permanent grade relief to majors.

This table provides the authorized strengths of commissioned officers on active duty in the grades of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.

By increasing the authorized Air Force major grade ceiling by 7 percent, more officers at any one time will wear the rank of major than previously allowed by law, said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, Air Force promotion, evaluation and separation policy chief at the Pentagon.

The average time in service to pin on major will go from 11.1 to 9.5 years over the next three to four years.

Captains should become majors be-

tween nine and 11 years, according to the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act.

The grade relief allows the Air Force to make this goal by letting more captains pin on faster through an accelerated board schedule, said Maj. Bill Nolte, Air Force officer promotion policy chief.

This Air Force initiative was requested, Major Nolte said, because for nearly a decade the Air Force has been unable to meet the management act's guidelines.

"Other services (officers) pin on (O-4) nine to 12 months earlier than the Air Force," he said. "This is a source of dissatisfaction with Air Force officers."

The grade relief to major will also compensate officers more adequately for work performed, Colonel Middleton said.

"In the nonrated line, 17 percent of field grade billets must be filled by company grade officers due to field-grade

shortages," she said. "It also has a positive effect on retention."

"Officers can frequently do better financially and faster outside the Air Force," Colonel Middleton said. "Bringing down the pin-on time to major with the accompanying pay raise may encourage some officers to remain in the Air Force."

The program will also better align career decision points for pilots, Major Nolte said.

"Combined with the new 10-year active-duty service commitment for pilots," he said, "this initiative ensures pilots pin on major six to 12 months prior to their service commitment expiring."

If approved, and if the Air Force chooses to implement major grade relief, Major Nolte said it will begin in 2002 and affects all captains meeting a promotion selection board under which the Air Force chooses to implement grade relief. (AFPN)

## Look who's talking: What's the best career advice another Air Force member has ever given you?



*"Get out of maintenance and become an enlisted flyer. It's the best advice I've ever received."*

**Staff Sgt. John Adams,**  
16th Special Operations Squadron



*"To keep my nose clean!"*

**Airman 1st Class Richard Correa,**  
823rd RED HORSE Squadron



*"As a new second lieutenant, my ROTC commander told me that the rank on my uniform will be respected, but as a person, I would have to earn the respect of others."*

**First Lt. Mike Mitchell,**  
8th Special Operations Squadron

## TEEN

*Continued from Page 1*

Michael Bradley, 16th Aircraft Generation Squadron, superintendent of plans and programs and Keystone Club advisor.

Ms. Baumayr in particular discussed issues such as transportation to off-base facilities for teens to get involved with other community activities and a program for teen volunteers to move into internships and future job positions on Air Force installations.

Her future plans include attending a week-long teen aviation camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., and joining the Air Force one day, she said.

One thing about the Hurlburt Field youth of the year is she isn't afraid of hard work and going after what she wants.

In order to win the award, she had to write two essays, one explaining why education is important and the other explaining why the youth center is important to her.

Nominees must be active participants at the base youth center, she said.

The youth of the year program is for youth between the ages 13 and 18 with either active-duty, retired military or Department of Defense civilian sponsors. They can be nominated by completing a package at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center, Sergeant Bradley said.

Ms. Baumayr plans to compete again next year. Even though it was a lot of work, she'd do it all again, she said.



**Watch for our children**



# Meet the new commander

**Name / Rank :**  
Randal Gescheidle/  
Lieutenant colonel

**Organization:**  
505th Systems Squad-  
ron

**H o m e t o w n :**  
Seguin, Texas

**Off-duty time is  
for:** Family, golf and  
fishing

**Previous Assign-  
ment:** Experimental  
Aerospace Operations  
Center, Langley Air Force Base,  
Va.

**Organizational Goals:** Pre-  
pare next generation communi-  
cators for the next generation  
warfighter.



**Lt. Col. Randal Gescheidle**

**Work Philosophy:** Give  
your people the tools they need  
to execute the mission. Help  
them grow personally and pro-  
fessionally. Most importantly,  
after the work is done, take time  
for your family.



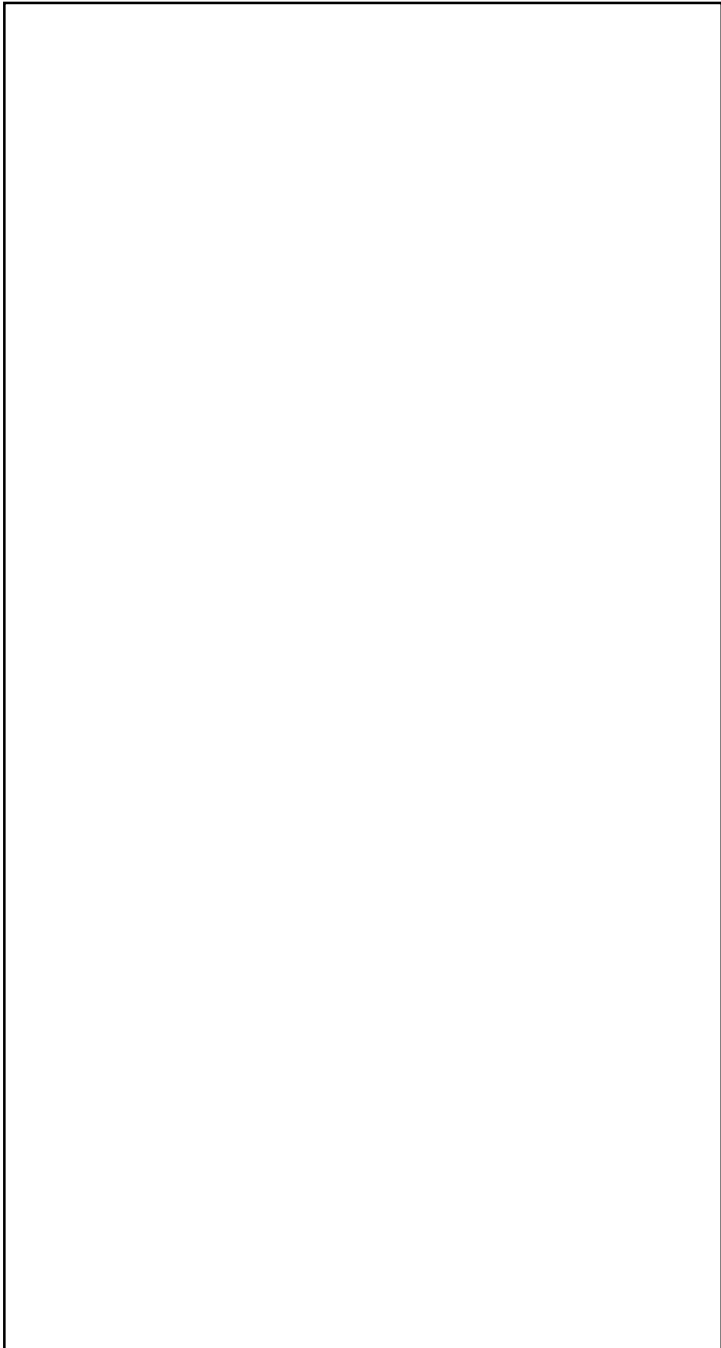
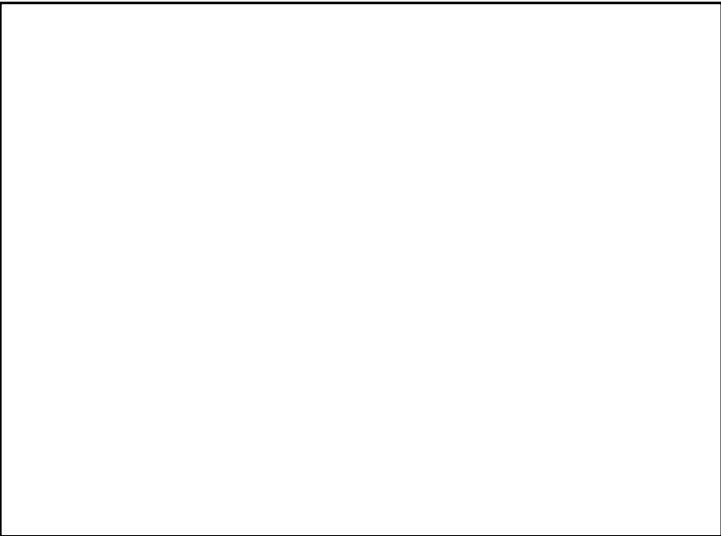
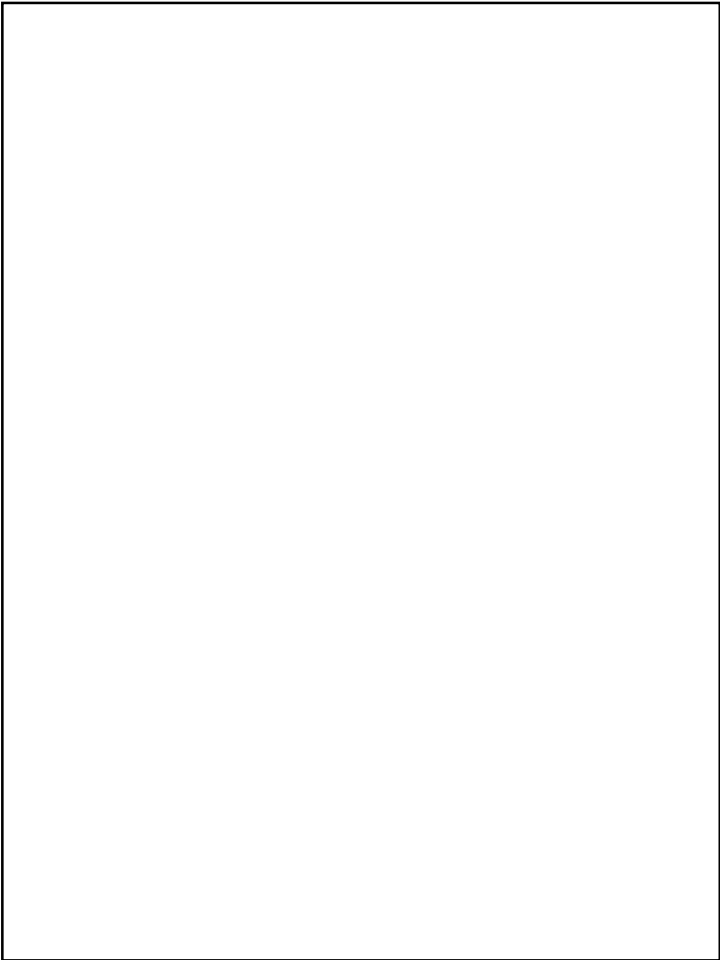
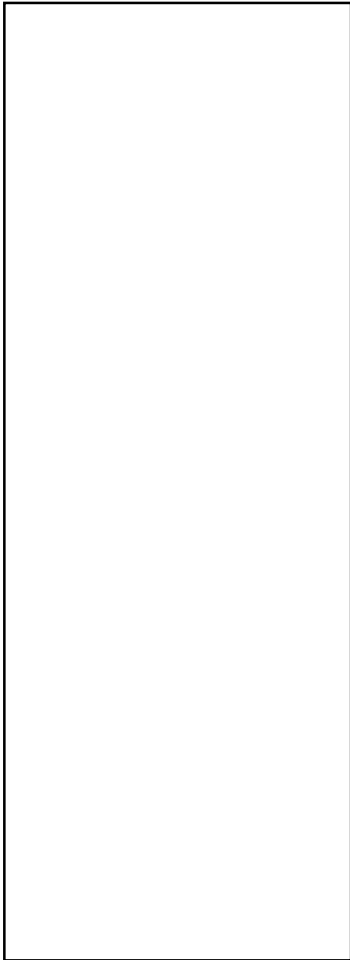
Photo by Senior Airman D. Myles Cullen

## Look out below

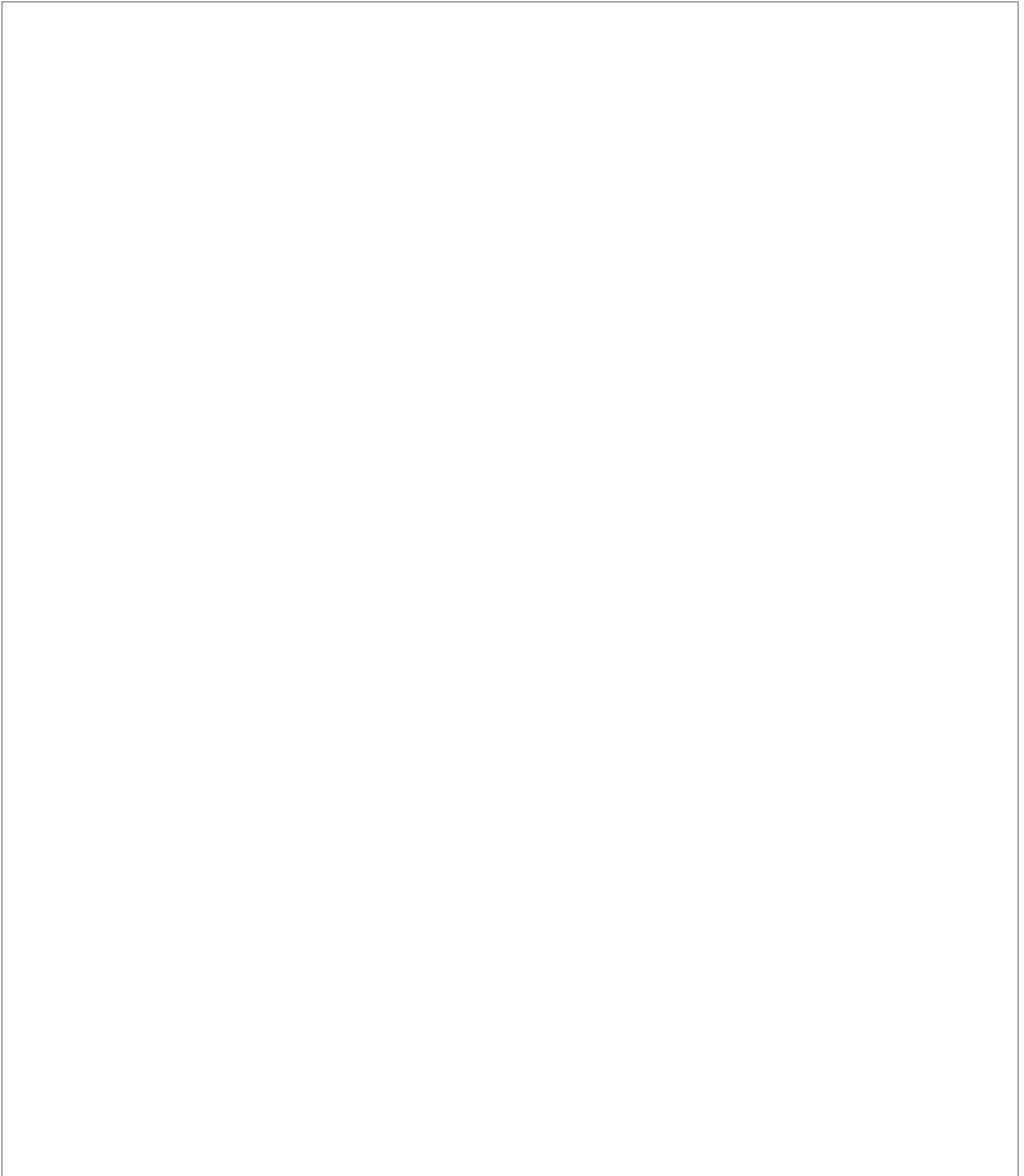
**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** – Soldiers from the the Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., jump from a C-17 Globemaster III Aug. 9 as a feature of a five-day convention honoring America's veterans. The convention is held every year in different locations to show respect to past and present veterans. (AFPN)

# Labor Day weekend hours

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Monday</u>
Autopride/Class Six/Shoppette	Normal hours	24 - hours
Barber shop	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Burger King	6 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Child development center	Normal hours	Closed
Commissary	Normal hours	Closed
Community center	Closed	Closed
Enlisted hooch	Normal hours	Closed
Fitness center	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Gator Lakes Golf Course	Normal hours	Normal hours
Health and wellness center	Closed	Closed
Hurlburt Lanes	Normal hours	noon - 10 p.m.
ITT Tickets and Tours	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed
Main exchange	Normal hours	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Main exchange concessions	Normal hours	Closed
Main Exchange Food Court	Normal hours	Closed
Mini Mall	Closed	Closed
Library	Normal hours	Closed
Lodging	Normal hours	Normal hours
Marina	Normal hours	Normal hours
Oasis Café	Closed	Closed
Officers' hooch	Normal hours	Closed
Outdoor recreation	Normal hours	Normal hours
J.R. Rockers	Normal hours	5 - 9 p.m.
Skills development center	Normal hours	Closed
The Reef	Brunch 6 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dinner 4 - 6:30p.m.	Brunch 6 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dinner 4 - 6:30 p.m.
The Soundside	Normal hours	Closed
Velocity Subs	Closed	Closed
Youth center	Normal hours	Closed







# Chief of staff shares ‘people first’ philosophy

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas**—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan shared his “people first” philosophy recently during a cross-talk session with junior Air Force people here.

Addressing a group of about 25 lieutenants and airmen, General Ryan told the group he was excited about what the future held for each of them in the Air Force.

“What we’re about in the Air Force, quite honestly, is expeditionary operations,” he said. “Our trade is being able to pick up, set down and operate anywhere in the world.”

Teamwork is important and it’s a vital part of accomplishing an expeditionary mission, he said.

“It’s all about people,” General Ryan said. “We have undoubtedly the most skilled, capable force we’ve ever had, but you have to take care of each other. The Air Force requires it, your buddies expect it and it’s an Air Force way of life.”

Service in the Air Force isn’t about individuals, he said.

“People want to be around other people they can perform operations with, or, if necessary, go to war with,” General Ryan said. “Those relationships are perma-

nent and keep us going.”

The Air Force remains committed to improving the quality of life and service throughout the force, he said.

“No matter what, what we’re going to do in leadership is make sure you have the tools to do the job the way it needs to be done,” he said.

Knowing the Air Force has aircraft older than some of the servicemembers in the room, General Ryan said that making sure old equipment is updated with the right equipment is part of the Air Force’s recapitalization process.

Talking about family issues, General Ryan said although the Air Force recruits individuals, it also recognizes the importance of the family.

“The Air Force’s job is to take care of its servicemembers and their families,” he said.

There are two housing initiatives that will benefit military families, General Ryan said.

“Over the next four years, the Air Force hopes to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses for housing and improve the basic allowance for housing pay rates,” he said.

The Air Force also hopes, in the next 10 years, to upgrade more than

50,000 housing units, he said.

General Ryan also talked about financial issues and told the group the members of the Air Force will receive a pay increase of 5 percent to 10 percent in 2002. The increase is expected to be 7 percent across the board, but the Air Force would like to give everyone at least 5 percent and provide larger, targeted pay increases to noncommissioned officers and captains.

The Air Force is planning to invest \$175 million in bonus pay for second- and third-term airmen in

critical skills specialties.

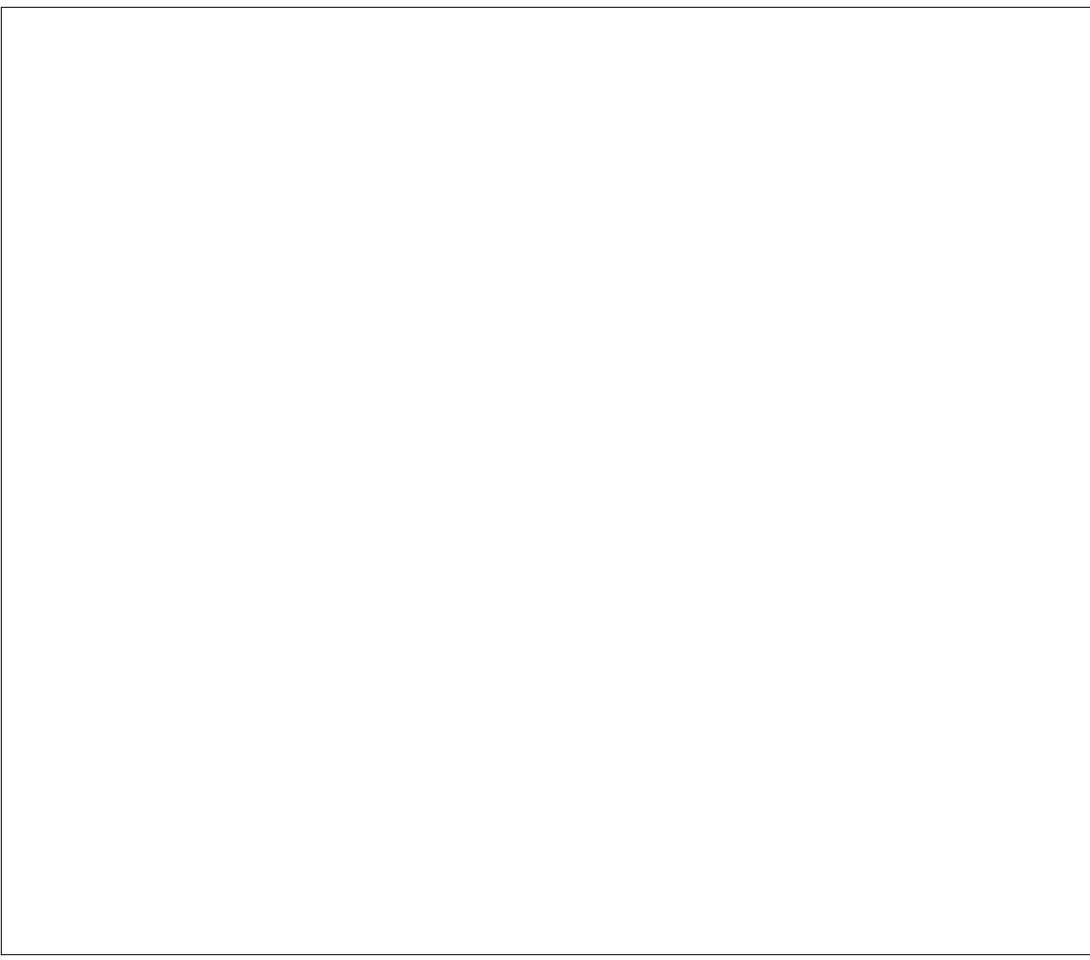
“We’re looking to grant the pay, focus the pay and give bonuses all around for critical skills,” General Ryan said.

While modernization and upgrades to equipment get a lot of attention, General Ryan said people come first.

“People often think that most of our problems have to deal with aircraft,” General Ryan said. “We take pretty good care of our aircraft. What we need to take excellent care of is our people and their families.” (AFPN)



**Gen. Michael Ryan**



## Special Operators assist in Russia's study of heavy metal

**by Master Sgt. Michael Farris**  
353rd Special Operations  
Group Public Affairs

**KADENAAIR BASE, Japan**—A humanitarian assistance team here is helping people in Russia's port city of Vladivostok study heavy metal.

Rather than head-banging, longhaired, extremists, this team of five bioenvironmental engineers and chemists substitute gauges for guitars and replace amps with ampules.

The squad spent a week in Vladivostok studying the environmental health of the populace. In just a few days, the team prepared more than 120 samples of children's hair for toxic metal analysis at a lab that routinely performs only 80 samples each month. They also analyzed samples for five toxic metals yielding 300 data results.

"This is the fourth year in a row we've sent a clinical ecology team there to assess exposure from an environmental health standpoint," said Lt. Col. Bryan Ramstack bioenvironmental engineer and commander of Detachment 3, Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis here.

In previous years, the team's emphasis was on assessing the environment. This year they focused on assessing people. Most of their efforts centered on analyzing lead in kindergartens and kindergarten children.

The team brought 1,000 blood-testing kits that will allow the Russians to test children and view results only three minutes after taking the sample. Throughout the past four years the American team has taken 15,000 samples from food, air, water, soil, paint, pesticides and other mediums.

"We prepared them to do more analysis on their own," Colonel Ramstack said. "We

brought our chemists to observe and help them analyze clinical samples. Many of the situations they face are similar to environmental challenges Americans face. We just had the ability to assess the environmental dangers earlier. They have very competent doctors and chemists but they need assistance in funding and supplies."

Maj. Peter Breed, another bioenvironmental engineer, said the Russian's strengths are their ingenuity, resourcefulness and enthusiasm.

"They recognize their shortcomings and work very hard to capitalize on their strengths," he said. "Several years ago, they recognized their exposure and asked for assistance — we were happy to offer a hand."

The team's greatest achievement during this year's trip to Russia was the use of military aircraft, Colonel Ramstack said. A crew from the 1st Special Operations Squadron shuttled the team to Russia and another crew from the 17th SOS picked the team up a week later and brought them home.

"At the outset of this mission, (U.S.) Pacific Command set a few goals for us to meet," Major Breed said. "Among them were goodwill, interoperability and access. Military transport allowed us to bring more supplies, saved us money on airfare and freed up resources for the humanitarian aspects of the visit."

An MC-130H hauled 1,000 pounds of supplies and the five-member team, demonstrating the ability to get in and out of a country the U.S. military doesn't routinely visit.

"Returns from this sort of interoperability must not be understated," Colonel Ramstack said. "These cooperative efforts will only serve to pave the way for joint training, medical capabilities exercises, disaster response drills and other future events." (AFPN)

# HURRICANE!

*The key to survival is preparation.*



# Base gets new bowling lane conditioning machine in time for league tournaments

by **2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss**  
*Public Affairs*

Hurlburt Lanes now provides bowlers with a new, top-of-the-line combination lane machine called the Sanction Standard Elite.

“It’s peace of mind knowing that lane conditions are consistent day to day,” said Mimi Lambert, Hurlburt Lanes manager. “I can look the bowlers in the eye and know that the lanes are all dressed the same. With adult and youth leagues starting during the next few weeks we’re excited about the future of Hurlburt Lanes. We can keep our customers happy, and spread the news that Hurlburt Lanes has the most advanced lane maintenance program in the industry. We’d like to invite all Hurlburt Field League bowlers to try out the lanes and give us an opinion of the conditions on their next visit.”

This machine has ultimate control over conditioner application and flexibility of multiple conditioning patterns. Several features

of the “Elite” are available only on this model.

Some of the best features, are the different programs for different leagues that can be done without having to touch the keypad, said Gib Hanley, head mechanic.

“This means any of the several programs held in memory can be programmed for different days or even times,” he said. “If you were to hold a tournament with three different squads in one day the Elite can be used prior to each shift to give the bowlers on each squad the identical pattern to each prior shift.”

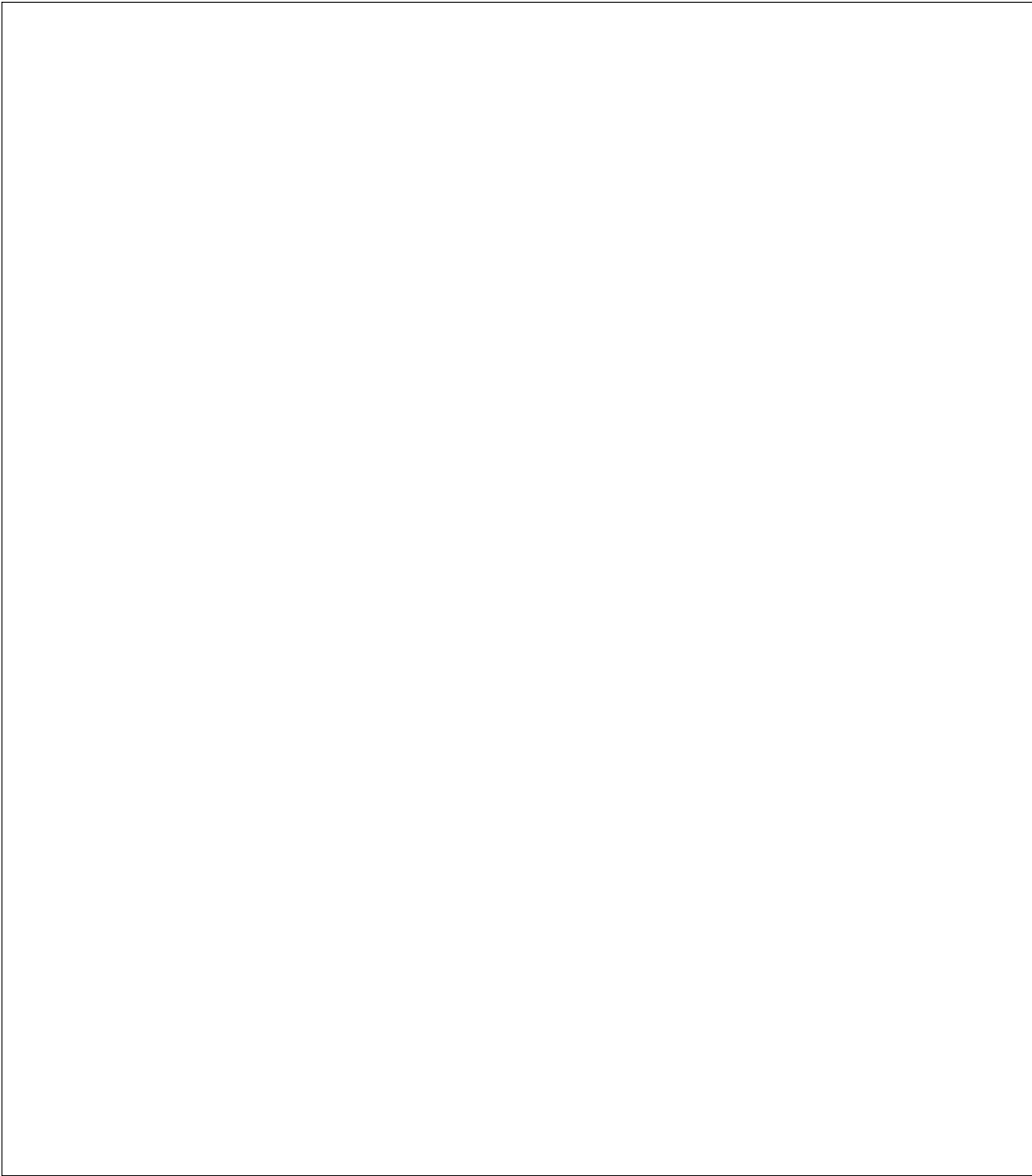
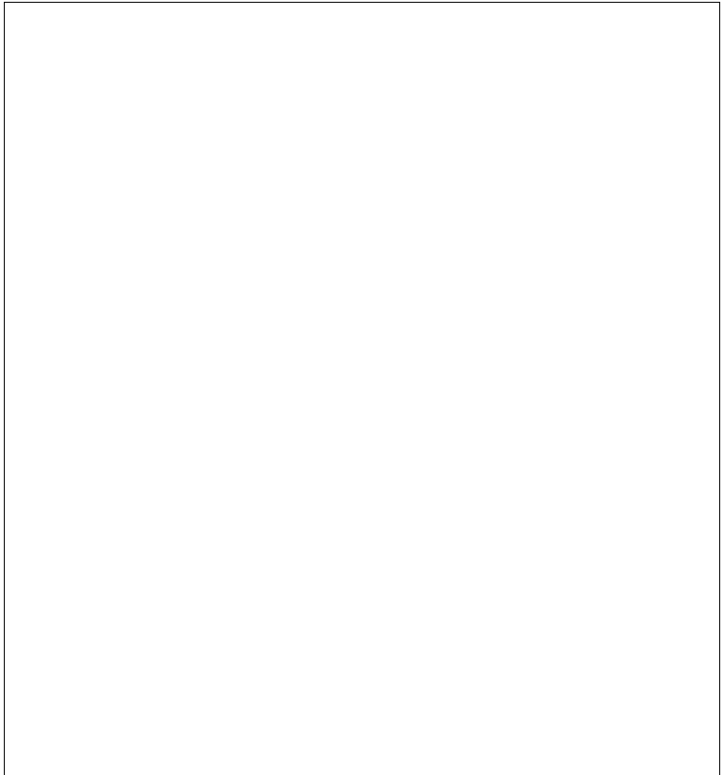
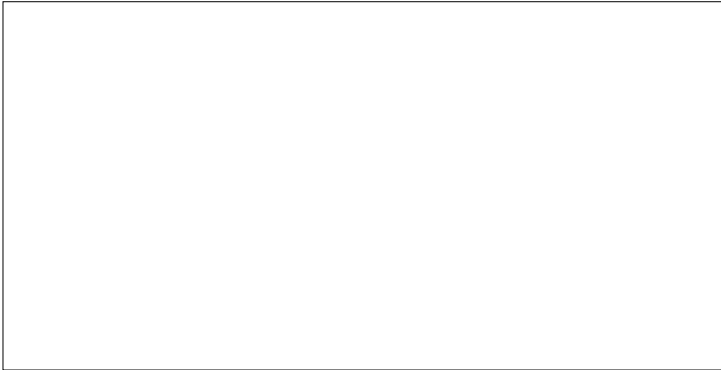
“The machine holds seven patterns in memory, and with the software available an indefinite amount of patterns could be downloaded, stored and duplicated. The same patterns used for professional tournaments, and international events can now be duplicated within minutes,” he added.

For more information about bowling leagues, call 884-6941.



Photo by John Armour

The lanes at the base bowling center get cleaned by the new Sanction Standard Elite, a top-of-the-line cleaner.



# Use waste receptacles for waste not for recyclables!



For more information on recycling, call 884-7577.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss

(from the left): Tech. Sgt. Doug Gosch and Staff Sgt. Jason Hakala, 4th Special Operations Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Greg Smith, 16th Special Operations Wing operations planner for the European command, coordinate details of the mission.

## EUROPE

*Continued from Page 1*

Many aircrew members had no experience flying in Europe, so Sergeant Smith saw the opportunity to improve the wing's training.

"Everything's different in Europe," he said. "The only way to learn something like flying in a new area is to do it. The corridors, coordination and so many other things are different, and some of that stuff just can't be simulated," he said.

Sergeant Smith and his counterpart, Tech. Sgt. Rich Schultz, 16th SOW logistics planner for the European command, worked out the details of the training, which would ultimately provide more than 300 flying hours between the 4th, 8th, 15th and 16th Special Operations squadrons.

The training took on two phases, according to Sergeant Smith.

The first phase included an aircraft package of two AC-130U Spooky Gunships from the 4th SOS and one MC-130E Combat Talon I from the 8th SOS.

The Combat Talon provided cargo carrying capability in addition to its primary task of in-

serting mobile ground teams and extracting 12-man Special Forces teams from Germany.

The Gunships practiced calls for fire and troop escort with teams on the ground.

The ground units, that didn't have much experience working with Gunships because they aren't often in Europe, were augmented by tacticians from the 4th SOS, said Staff Sgt. Jason Hakala, one of the 4th SOS members who worked with the ground troops.

The second phase of training took an AC-130H Spectre Gunship from the 16th SOS and an MC-130H Combat Talon II from the 15th SOS to Europe for more training in Mildenhall and Stuttgart, according to Sergeant Smith.

During phase two, Sergeant Hakala further improved the outcome of the training, according to Sergeant Smith.

Armed with a cell phone, a lap top computer and a radio, Sergeant Hakala figured out how to send images instantly around the world, Sergeant Smith said.

"It was like using instant messenger only with images attached," said Sergeant Hakala explaining how quickly the data transfer was. "This really im-

proves our reach-back capability."

People in the United Kingdom were able to send images to Germany and here to the wing operations center, so people who weren't at the European training also benefited from the experience, said Sergeant Hakala.

"This is the first time we ever had three countries linked up real time," he said. "It showed us we could be halfway across the world and reach back to Hurlburt Field instantly. That's a pretty cool thing."

The training was a good opportunity for the 16th SOW to deploy and exercise, said Capt. Sean Farrell, an aircraft commander during phase two and a 16th Operations Group Gunship standards and evaluations member.

It's good to get ourselves into other areas of responsibility," he said. "It was a chance for operators and maintainers to get on the road, and the Gunships were 100 percent mission ready for the entire deployment," he said of his appreciation for the work done by the maintainers."

Sergeant Smith echoed the captain's praise of the maintainers.

"They're the true warriors of this exercise," he said. "They worked countless hours with little information to keep the aircraft flying."

"The mission was accomplished better, faster, smarter and cheaper than ever before because of the efforts of so many people," he said, pleased that people from all over the wing got behind this idea to make it successful.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Smith, 16th Special Operations Wing operations planner for the European command, recognized the following people for their critical support for and contribution to the exercise:

Tech. Sgt. Rich Schultz, 16th SOW logistics planner for the European command; Tech. Sgts. Doug Gosch and Scott Callahan and Staff Sgt. Jason Hakala, 4th SOS; Capt. Nathan Green, and Tech. Sgt. Art Cozad, 16th SOS; Capt. Mike Doyle, 8th SOS; Capts. Tony Bauernfeind and Mark Cable, 15th SOS; Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Brandewie and Master Sgt. Rob Brown 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.



## FEATURE

*Chapel members provide spiritual presence*

Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry Deford

Chaplain Adams performs communion during the 11:15 a.m. Protestant worship service at the base chapel.

by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson  
Public Affairs

One day you're driving down the road on your way shopping, just enjoying the day, when 100 yards down the road you see a head-on collision. The first thing out of your mouth would probably be something like, "Oh my God." Three o'clock in the morning, you're sleeping peacefully and you receive a phone call from the state sheriff's department telling you they have your son or daughter in custody, the first thing out of your mouth might be, "Oh my God."

It's probably impossible to establish where this expression comes from, but somehow, people have an immediate need to call on God. Even today when there are so many practicing religions, many people identify with using the title God at that crucial moment when no other name can quite fill that void felt at that instance. It's a belief people feel can help, although God isn't physically there beside them.

It's a chaplain's responsibility to provide the presence of the Holy Spirit around the base community, said Chaplain, Capt. Scott Adams, a protestant chaplain at the Hurlburt Field Base Chapel. The physical being is what the base chaplains provide, he added.

In order to do that, he's willing to talk and listen to people anywhere they feel comfortable. He recalled listening to someone under the wing of an aircraft once. "Anywhere people are willing to talk, I'm willing to listen," Chaplain Adams said. "It's my job to provide spiritual guidance," he said.

The chaplain was a United Methodist pastor before deciding to join the Air Force and also served five and

***"Anywhere people are willing to talk, I'm willing to listen."***

— Chaplain Scott Adams, base chaplain

half years with the Air Force Reserve. Along with a vast experience of worship service, Chaplain Adams brings a commitment to the 16th Special Operations Wing and base population.

"A high priority for chaplain service is being committed to supporting deployments of the wing and ensuring chaplains and chaplain assistants can deploy when needed and necessary," he said.

"As a chaplains assistant, our job is to provide support for everything the chaplains need to do. That can be anything from conducting worship services, funerals or memorials, weddings and baptisms just to name a few," said Tech. Sgt. Cassandra Simons, NCO in charge of the chaplain division at the base chapel.

All chaplains are officers and chaplain assistants are enlisted members, said Sergeant Simons. The enlisted staff is responsible for numerous tasks and must have a wide range of knowledge on diverse matters.

"One thing people don't know about chaplain assistants is that we have to know a lot about other career fields," she said. Since the chapel maintains their own non-appropriated finances as well as appropriated funds, the support staff must have an extensive background in accounting and finance, contracting and supply processes. In order to maintain the facility, they

work closely with the civil engineers on both internal and external issues involving the building or the grounds.

Along with working a typical workweek of Monday through Friday, a very important part of chaplain assistant's job includes working Saturday and Sunday to support worship services. Depending on what functions are being held at the chapel, a chaplain assistant's duty day varies.

Since the religious backgrounds of our military members differ greatly, the chaplain assistants are required to be familiar with many different religions such as Judaism, Muslim, Protestant, Catholic, Buddhism, Wicca and several others, Sergeant Simons said.

"A good thing about the chaplain service is that people seeking counseling can confide in someone. They can get out what ever is on their mind, good, bad or indifferent, and that's a good thing," she said.

She feels like it's one of the most important jobs, "I rank us with security forces, because people call them for any problem and like them we never know what problem or situation will come through our doors at any given time."

They've had women come in whose husbands didn't pay child support and they needed help on what to do or where to go, and even a little girl with a dead bird, seeking help, said Sergeant Simons. They all come to the one place they perceive can help them and that's the chapel. "The best part is seeing a person who came in feeling hopeless, leave with a smile. That's why this is such an important and invaluable job," she added.

There's a common bond within this community and the people who come to the chapel can expect to find their place among them, said Chaplain Adams.

For more information on chaplain service programs, or worship services, call 884-7795.



Photo by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson

Technical Sergeant Cassandra Simons, NCO in charge of the chaplain division, reviews some paperwork in order to meet a suspense.



# LIFESTYLE

## Military

### TMO survey

People inbound from a Full Service Moving Project test location should provide feedback about their move to the FSMP Web site [www.dodfsmp.com](http://www.dodfsmp.com) or send an e-mail directly to the Air Force representative, Lt. Col. Dave Holt at [holtd@mtmc.army.mil](mailto:holtd@mtmc.army.mil). Members should be contacted within two weeks after shipment delivery to conduct a customer satisfaction survey, but can use the e-mail addresses listed if they aren't. E-mails will require name, rank, return e-mail address and phone numbers.

### Munitions inventory

The 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron conducts its wall to wall inventory Sept. 3 through 14. The munitions flight will not accept any turn-ins or issues during this period unless it is an emergency authorized by the Logistics Group Commander. For more information, call 884-2006 or 2007.

### Freight yard closure

The traffic management office's surface freight yard located at building 90710 is closed until Sept. 14 for resurfacing. Due to the resurfacing there'll be no access to the dock doors. People requiring surface freight service will have to enter through the supply side of the warehouse. Questions or concerns can be directed to 884-2585 or 7227.

## Community

### Stage 1 green flag

Stage one green flag is effective immediately. Odd buildings and houses may water on odd days and even buildings and houses may water on even days. Watering must be done between the hours of 6 to 10 a.m. or 6 to 10 p.m. but not during both times, and no more than 30 minutes per zone. People may water each day for the first 30 days after planting but not between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

### Native-American/Indian Heritage

November is Native-American/Indian Heritage Month. Spouses, civilians and military members who would like to serve on the committee can attend weekly meetings. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Lynetta Williams at 884-8746 or Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

### Car giveaway

There's an Air Force Club Ultimate Membership Drive now through Nov. 18. Current Hurlburt Field club members not only receive \$5 for each new member they sign up, but they're also entered in the drawing to win a car. All new members will be eligible to win cars that'll be presented to nine lucky people who join any club worldwide. For more information, call 884-6469 or go by J.R. Rockers.

### Hispanic heritage committee

Everyone is invited to be a part of the 16th Special Operations Wing Hispanic Heritage Committee. Meetings are every other Tuesday in the military equal opportunity classroom, building 90210, room 244. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

### Foster parents needed

The Lakeview Center program is looking for dedicated people in Okaloosa and Walton counties to open their homes to children and adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Foster parents receive free training, extensive professional support and financial compensation. For more information, call 609-1151 extension 36.

### Ragtime

The arts center at Okaloosa-Walton Community College holds performances of the Tony Award winning Broadway musical "Ragtime." Performances are Sept. 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$37.50. For more information and tickets, call the arts center box office at 729-6000 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Campers for rent

The outdoor recreation center now has 15-foot, pop-up campers that can be towed with most vehicles. Each camper is equipped with heat and air conditioning, 3-burner stove, 12-gallon water tank, an icebox, power and water hookup and has sleeping space for four people. Rental fees are \$20 a day, \$110 a week or \$50 for the weekend. To reserve a camper, call 884-4097 or 6939.

### NCOA

Hurlburt Field's Commando Noncommissioned Officer Association Chapter holds its monthly meeting Saturday at 6 p.m. in J.R. Rockers Daytona Room. Each member is requested to attend and bring a friend or another member. For more information or questions, call Tech. Sgt. Bob Love at 884-6206 or retired Chief Master Sgt. John Greer at 939-6659.

### Fund raiser

Fat Tuesday's restaurant in Destin is sponsoring a fund raiser from 6 to 10 p.m., Thursday, for the family of Joseph "Mike" Michalowski III. Mike suffered a heart stroke at the Hurlburt Field Fitness Center in July while completing a fitness test to be commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Program. He worked at the restaurant, and the bartenders on staff would like to assist his family with finances by contributing all their earnings for the night to the family. There'll be happy hour prices all night and entertainment will be provided. For more information, call Kirstie Bartleson at 863-1473.

### Shelter volunteers needed

Shelter House Incorporated is looking for dedicated volunteers to work in the shelter answering phones to provide crisis counseling, screen new clients, work with youth programs and assist with residents in the shelter. Volunteers must be 18 years old and complete a training course. To register or for more information, call the Shelter House at 863-4777.

### Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)



#### Catholic Masses

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

#### Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. (praise & worship),

1:15 a.m. (traditional),

2:30 p.m. (Gospel)

Youth and Single Groups available

#### Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of

each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

#### Muslim Services (882-2111)

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

## At the movies



**Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.**

### Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

**Friday and Sunday** – (PG-13) "Tomb Raider," starring Angelina Jolie and Jon Voight – Based on the video game, goddess Lara Croft has finally come to life. Lady Lara Croft, a voluptuous English heiress is searching for pieces of a device that can manipulate time. While the villains want it for nefarious means, Lara's motivation is familiar, to see her dead father.

**Saturday** – (PG-13) "A.I.," starring Haley Joel Osment and William Hurt – Sometime in the future of the 21st century, mankind depends upon computers with artificial intelligence to maintain our way of life. Man has also found new friends in A.I. in the form of robots that are used for a variety of functions. A boy robot is on an emotional journey toward becoming something more.

### Eglin (882-1066)

**Friday** – (R) "Kiss of the Dragon," starring Jet Li and Bridget Fonda – Liu Jiuan, China's top government agent, arrives in Paris from Shanghai to carry out a sensitive, top-secret mission. Liu is in Paris to assist Richard, an unorthodox police official with a small army to back him up. The mission goes horribly wrong, as the man Liu had come to help, betrays him.

**Saturday** – (PG) "Cats and Dogs," starring Jeff Goldblum and Elizabeth Perkins – There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that the humans don't even know about. An eternal struggle between two great armies: the cats and the dogs. Cats plan to destroy a new vaccine that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to dogs. The Dogs try to stop the cats from destroying the vaccine.

**Sunday** – (PG-13) "Pootie Tang," starring Lance Crouther and Wanda Sykes – Pootie Tang is the ultimate super hero. A cool walking, smooth talking ladies man. Everyone looks up to Pootie except for the evil Dick Lecter, the CEO of the company that makes/organizes/commercializes and markets food.

# LIFESTYLE

## Community

### Siren testing

The 16th Special Operations Wing, command post will test the base siren today from noon to 1 p.m. while upgrading software. The siren will sound for three minutes, numerous times throughout the hour.

### Part-day preschool

The child development part-day preschool program is designed for children 3 to 5 and offers learning activities in math and science. Members must bring the child's shot records and a recent Leave and Earning Statement to the child development center. For more information, call 884-6664.

## Classes

### USAF Special Ops school

For more information on Special Operations School Courses, call 884-4731 or check the Web site [hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos](http://hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos).  
Special Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Course  
Introduction to Special Operations Course  
Joint Special Operations Planning Workshop  
Joint Psychological Operations Course  
Commander's Responsibilities Course, Force Protection Level III

### Scrapbook class

The skills development center offers two beginners scrapbook classes. The class teaches quick and easy fun ways to make a scrapbook photo album. The first class is Aug. 28 and will teach the basics. The second class offered Aug. 30 teaches how to accent or decorate with colored papers and ribbons. Both classes are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for each class. For more information, call 884-6941 or 581-9618.

### FSC

For more information on family support center classes, call 884-5441.

- Career Focus Orientation** – Monday, at 9 a.m.
- Single Parents** – Tuesday, at noon.
- Car Seat Safety** – Tuesday, at 3:30 p.m.
- Moms, Pops and Tots** – Tuesday for ages birth to 2 and Wednesday for ages 2 to 4, at 10 a.m.
- Readiness** – Thursday, at 9 a.m.
- Kids Smooth Move** – Thursday, at 4 p.m.

## Sports

### Heritage golf

The Hurlburt Field Hispanic Heritage Committee sponsors a golf tournament today at 8:30 a.m. at Gator Lakes. Cost is \$30 a person and includes green fees, cart and range balls. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Theodore Rivera at 884-2348 or Chief Master Sgt. Carlos Felix at 884-5241.

### Varsity soccer

Tryouts for the Hurlburt Field Varsity Soccer team are held Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the main fitness center soccer field. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Marlon Galdamez at 884-7221.

### IG farewell golf tournament

There's a farewell golf tournament in recognition of Maj. Jessie Rowe's retirement. The tournament is Thursday at noon at Gator Lakes Golf Club. Cost is \$30 and prizes will be awarded for first, second, third places, longest drive, closest to pin and door prizes. Call or e-mail team information to Gene Yelton at 884-2256, [bobby.yelton@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:bobby.yelton@hurlburt.af.mil), Kevin Kempke at 884-3400, [kevin.kempke@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:kevin.kempke@hurlburt.af.mil) or Craig England at 884-2256, [craig.england@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:craig.england@hurlburt.af.mil).

### Gymnastics

The third annual National Gymnastics Day, sponsored by USA Gymnastics is Saturday and begins at 8:50 a.m. Area gymnasts will perform tumbling routines throughout the day. Other highlights will include judo, body building and general fitness and nutrition. The exhibition is free to the public. The gym is located at 340 Eglin Parkway, Fort Walton Beach. For more information, call Mary Lowery at 863-3991.

### Silent shield golf

The first Silent Shield Golf tournament in memory of John Ray will be Sept. 14 at 7:30 a.m. at Gator Lakes Golf Club. For more information, call Jim Gober at 884-2193 or Dave Helman at 884-4143.

# SPORTS

## *Hurlburt Field, home base for pair of softball champions*



Courtesy photo

Cheryl Trapnell, Air Force Special Operations Command, superintendent of enlisted force management, played shortstop during the armed forces team tournament.

**by Dave Ornaier**  
Assistant Pacific Editor,  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO, Japan - Twice since 1996, the women's All-Armed Forces softball team has captured top honors in Amateur Softball Association national women's tournaments. Two members who participated on those teams are stationed at Hurlburt Field.

Cheryl Trapnell, Air Force Special Operations Command and Sue Devereaux, 823rd RED HORSE helped the Armed Forces team go 4-0 earlier this month in the Class A nationals at Shreveport, La.

Trapnell was voted tournament MVP, and she and Devereaux were selected as All-Americans.

"I'm blessed to be able to still do it," said Trapnell, a nine-time All-American and 14-time All-Armed Forces shortstop who turns 40 later this year.

"It's a great honor. You can't put it into words," added Devereaux, who's a four-time All-American and a six-time All-Armed Forces catcher, extra hitter and first base player.

The two are part of a strong legacy of great Air Force players who've passed through Hurlburt Field in recent years.

Former All-Air Force first

baseman Tobi Dillard, second baseman Steve Shaw, outfielder Eric North, infielder Rob Darhower and utility slugger Mike Friedman have played at Hurlburt Field in recent years.

For the most recent Hurlburt Field heros, winning in Shreveport was almost a replay of their Armed Forces team's championship five years earlier.

They'd won the national majors title under coach Gerald Corcoran, an Army civilian, in 1996 near Portland, Ore., and there they were, together again in Shreveport.

"He kept telling us, 'I know it's in the cards this year because I've got Trap and Sue on the team,'" Trapnell recalled Corcoran saying.

Armed Forces outscored its four opponents 49-24 over the three-day tournament. Trapnell, Devereaux and company opened by downing LeValley and Reidel of St. Joseph, Minn., by an 11-8 count, then tripped up Cruisers of Grenada, Miss., 15-8.

Armed Forces' next two games in the double-elimination eight-team tournament came against runner-up Reamstown of Reading, Pa. Armed Forces sent Reamstown into the loser's bracket with a 15-3 win, then beat Reamstown again 8-5 in the championship game Aug. 12.

What made the championship even more remarkable was that the Armed Forces team was put together in just one week, compared to the other seven teams in the tournament, which have played together for months, even years.

"We didn't have a whole lot of time" to put together a team comprised of eight airmen and seven soldiers, Devereaux said. "Not a whole lot of time to mesh."

"We weren't sure about the chemistry," Trapnell added. "But it all came together."

Neither Trapnell nor Devereaux doubted that Armed Forces had the ability and talent to win the nationals.

"More than I've seen in years past," Devereaux said. "I just knew we weren't going to

lose. The team meshed together well. We fit together really well."

Corcoran "put his best 10 players out there and the five on the bench did their jobs when called on," Trapnell said of a team featuring a healthy mixture of veterans and five young players. "Everybody stepped up and did their jobs."

Everybody doing their jobs led to sweet redemption for Devereaux and Trapnell, whose Air Force team came up short in the All-Armed Forces tournament a week earlier at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Army swept all nine of its games in that tournament, while Air Force finished 6-3.

But Trapnell also earned MVP honors in that tournament, batting a tournament-leading 23-for-28, .822. "I have never hit that well," said Trapnell. "I don't know what got into me."

It's only been in the last 12 years that the Armed Forces team has stepped up and been truly competitive in ASA national tournaments. Trapnell first wore the Armed Forces team uniform in a national tournament in 1981, when the team finished 16th. "And that was considered an achievement," she said. From there, "we kept inching up, but we never broke into the top four until 1989, when we finished second."

A national title wouldn't come until 1996. But it wasn't just winning titles that served as an indicator of the Armed Forces team's success, Devereaux said.

Being seen carrying bat bags and T-shirts with the All-Armed Forces emblems on them, having their exploits receive attention in base newspapers and local media, "raises awareness," Devereaux said.

"Things like this, more people are turning in their (Air Force form) 303s, so there's more competition for spots on the Air Force and Armed Forces teams. It's like, 'well, maybe I can do that, too.'"

Making the Armed Force

team's feat even more remarkable is the fact the military as a whole has drawn down on troop strength significantly since the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. That was the last year that the Air Force held command tournaments which served as qualifying events for selection to All-Air Force tryout camps.

Now, players submit Air Force form 303s to their services divisions, which in turn are forwarded to their major commands, then to Air Force Services headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, for final selection.

Players who are selected must then prepare their duty sections and commands back at their home bases to lose those players for as long as a month.

Trapnell and Devereaux went to Air Force camp at Eglin Air Force Base, played in the All-Armed Forces championship at Fort Indiantown Gap, then came back to work for four days before going to Shreveport for the nationals.

Both Trapnell and Devereaux said, they really appreciate their duty sections picking up the load while they were gone. They could have said no, they couldn't spare them away from the office, but they did, and both women appreciate the support.

Devereaux got the same sort of support on the home front from her husband, Staff Sgt. Jason Devereaux, who's stationed at nearby Eglin. "He's been very supportive of me," she said.

For Trapnell, playing softball has meant balancing athletics, a military career and the responsibility of being a single parent. She's the mother of two sons, Travis, 12, and Evan, 2.

Through it all, Devereaux and Trapnell kept their eyes on the goal, an elusive prize that only they can claim to have done twice. A rare feat for two people assigned to the same base.

"I just love to play ball," Devereaux said. "When you win the nationals, that's really special."